show cause notices to Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. directing payment of wages not paid for last 20 months to contract labourers and to prosecute Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. for acting illegally;

(b) if so, whether the Secretary by Fax message dated 12th April, 1997 confirmed to Joint Council of Workers Federation and Indian Oil Employees Union Calcutta, as matter being grave and directed action by Chief Labour Commissioner (Central); and

(c) if so, the reasons for not taking any action, including prosecution in the matter and non-payment of wages to workers so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central), Calcutta issued five letters to the management of M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (Marketing Division) to make payment to the Contract Labourers in terms of Section 21(4) of the Contract Labour (R&A) Act, 1970.

(b) The Union Labour Secretary vide his letter dated 12th April, 1997 informed the President of Indian Oil Employees' Union that he had asked Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) to look into the problem of non-settlement of wages of contract employees at Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

(c) The officials of the Central Government Industrial Relation Machinery (CIRM) intervened in the matter and contractor was asked to make payment to workers as per the wages notified by the Central Government for the concerned period. However, the workers refused to take the payment on the plea that they should be paid wages as per the bipartite settlement arrived at with the contractor M/s. S.N. Building Works for providing wages at the rate of Rs. 110/- and Rs. 140/- per day for the Semi-skilled and Skilled category of workers respectively. The Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central), Calcutta intervened again and asked the contractor to make the payment as per the said bipartite settlement. But the workers again refused to take the payment on the plea that they should paid wages for overtime as well. But as the matter of overtime payment was a dispute between the Contractor and the Mangement of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., the officials of CIRM could not insist the contractor to make payment for overtime. Meanwhile the Workers' Union has filed a writ petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta seeking payment of wages, overtime wages, regularisation of services etc. for the contract labourers working in the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (Marketing Division) Calcutta. The contractor also filed a petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta seeking recovery the due for overtime wages from the principal employer i.e. M/s Indian oil Corporation Ltd. The Hon'ble High Court disallowed the petition and directed that the matter be settled between the two parties under the Arbitration Act.

Child workers in the Country

1026. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has the highest number of underage child workers numbering 60—110 million, as reported in the Times of India dated 2nd November, 1997;

(b) whether any workshop was organised by SACCS (South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude) in New Delhi on Ist November, 1997 on "Primary Education and Child Labour";

(c) if so, what recommendations were made by SACCS and what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) what concrete steps Government have taken so far for elimination of child labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) As reported by the World Labour Report,

1992, published by ILO, India has probably the largest number of working children. However, authentic data on Child Labour are generated from the decennial census. As per 1991 census the number of working children in India is 11.28 million as against 13.6 million according to 1981 census.

(b) to (d) According to the news paper report a workshop on "Primary Education and Child Labour was organised by SACCS (South-Asian Coalition of Child Servitude) in New Delhi on 1st Nov., 97, wherein emphasis was laid on the need for achieving universal primary education. Government have taken a series of steps for the elimination of Child Labour working in hazardous occupations. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children is prohibited in 7 occupations and 18 processes contained in parts A and B of the scheduled to the Act. There are also legal provisions in various other labour laws safeguarding the interests of working children. Apart from legal measures, Government have taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations. 76 child labour projects have been set up for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. A major activity undertaken under the child labour projects is the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition etc. to children withdrawn from employment. As the available information, around 1.05 lakh children are already enrolled in the special schools. Besides opening of child labour projects, funds have been sanctioned for carrying out survey on child labour in 516 distrsicts and for awareness generation against the evil of child labour in 133 districts. Various initiatives have been taken by the Government for universalisation of elementary eduction and for providing free and compulsory education to all children upto the age of 14 years.

News Norms for Selection to top Administrative Posts

1027. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed new norms for selection to the top administrative posts such as the Chief Secretary and the Director-General of Police; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND THE PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLAIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALA- SUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

Ceiling of GPF Contributions

1028. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for ceiling on GPF contributions for Central Government employees; and

(b) whether Government propose to relax the ceiling to enable Government employees to deposit the arrears due to them on account of 5th Pay Commission Report enblock to GPF account in the interest of economic stability of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND THE PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) The ceiling in GPF contributions for Central Govt. servants has been prescribed in GPF (CS) Rules, 1960 which provides that the amount of subscription may be any sum not less than 6% of the emoluments and not more than the total emoluments of an employee.